

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 3a  
September 20, 2012

**Meeting**

RIDE

**Thursday, September 6, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

**The meeting convened at 4:10 p.m.**

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**Acceptance of Agenda**

On a motion duly made by Regent Bernal and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Next, Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) and a personnel matter pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(1)

On a motion duly made by Regent Forbes and seconded by Regent Santos, it was



**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education go into executive session.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Return to Open Session – 4:40 p.m.**

Chairman Caruolo reported that no votes were taken in executive session and that the minutes were sealed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the July 19, 2012, Board of Regents Meeting.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner's Report**

In Commissioner Gist's absence, Deputy Commissioner David Abbott gave an update on the following:

### **RTTT – Year 2 Report**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, on behalf of Governor Chafee and Commissioner Gist, RIDE presented the Year 2 Progress Report on Race to the Top to the Race to the Top Steering Committee. Regents Callahan and Guida represented the BOR at that meeting.

The report shows that RIDE has used Race to the Top funds to help implement educator evaluations in all school and districts; to begin an induction program for all new teachers; to train nearly 5,000 educators for transition to the new Common Core State Standards; to



develop virtual-learning instruction in mathematics to help struggling students; and to provide support to help turn around our lowest-achieving schools.

In Year 3, RIDE will open the Academy for Transformative Leadership, which will prepare aspiring principals to take on leadership roles in R.I.'s lowest-achieving schools, and RIDE will launch an online system to bring together data on students, curriculum, assessment, and professional development, especially in formative assessment.

### **Necessity for School Construction Projects**

Pending approval from the Senate and House Finance Committees, RIDE will be seeking BOR review and approval of the next two Necessity for School Projects for the Barrington and Coventry school districts, which are necessitated by immediate health and safety.

### **Charters – New Applications/Renewals/Update on Conditional Status**

RIDE has received two (2) applications for the opening of two new virtual charter high schools (grades 9-12) for the 2013-14 school year.

- Sheila C. “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy (YWCA sponsored) – Four regional facilities – Central Falls and Providence targeted to open in September 2013 and East Providence and Warwick targeted to open in September 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- The Village Green Virtual Public Charter High School to be located in Providence.

Both of these charter high schools would have a statewide catchment area and will be going out for public hearing within the next two weeks.

Hope Academy Charter School (sponsored by the Meeting Street School), a very innovative program in terms of providing integrated learning opportunities for severely disabled students and general-education students, was originally scheduled to open in the fall of 2013, but is now scheduled to open in the fall of 2014. This application will also be going through a round of public hearings in the near future.

In addition to the new applications, there are five (5) charter schools (Highlander, Segue, The Learning Community, Times2, and the Blackstone Valley Prep) whose charters are expiring in June 2014.

RIDE is also reviewing the two charter schools (NELS and Kingston Hill), which the BOR recently renewed with conditional status.



- NELS had to establish compliant enrollment procedures and had to separate the AEP from the charter school.
- Kingston Hill is working with RIDE's legal and charter school offices to bring its bylaws, due on December 1, 2012, into compliance.

### **Public Remarks**

Paul DiModica – Parent of Cumberland student with an IEP - Spoke about his concern over the lack of transportation of students to statewide catchment area charter schools.

Larry DeSalvatore – CEO and Head of School at the Academy for Career Exploration (ACE) - Spoke in support of ACE's charter renewal and addressed questions from the Regents around what approaches the school has been utilizing to change the struggling math scores.

Chairman Caruolo then asked Mr. DeSalvatore if he would be amenable to working very closely with RIDE to develop some benchmarks, or something along those lines, if it meant having the charter renewed for a period of some time. Mr. DeSalvatore answered that he would be most amenable to that.

Shelle Butler – Parent and member of ACE's Board of Directors – Academy for Career Exploration (ACE) - Spoke in support of ACE's charter renewal.

Nadia Dossen – Student – Academy for Career Exploration (ACE) – Spoke about her experiences as a student at ACE.

Geovanna Goico – Former student – Academy for Career Exploration (ACE) – Spoke about her experiences as a student at ACE and in support of ACE's charter renewal.

Susan Lusi – Superintendent – Providence School Department – Spoke in support of ACE's charter renewal.

Melissa Morales – Student – Spoke about her experiences as a student at ACE.

Jane Nugent – Member of ACE's Board of Directors – Spoke in support of ACE's charter renewal.

Steve Smith – President, Providence Teachers Union – Spoke in support of the Academy for Career Exploration charter renewal.

### **Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo shared that later in the meeting he was going to ask for a motion to change the currently scheduled September 20<sup>th</sup> BOR Work Session to a voting meeting in order for the BOR to vote on the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Local 1627 and the Central Falls School District, as well as on



a provision on the Commissioner's contract that the Governor's Office may ask the BOR to take action on.

He went on to wish Commissioner Gist the best of luck on her upcoming surgery.

On the Chairman's suggestion to change the September 20<sup>th</sup> BOR Work Session to a voting meeting, Regent Bernal requested that the vote on ACE be postponed until the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting as she had planned her vacation around the fact that the next voting meeting would not be occurring until October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Discussion Items**

### **PARCC - Partnership for the Assessment and Readiness of College and Careers**

Phyllis Lynch, Director of the Office of Instruction, Assessment, and Curriculum, gave a periodic update, as required by the PARCC Board, on which RIDE is a founding- and governing-board member.

The primary considerations driving the PARCC work are that the entire assessment system will eventually measure students' readiness for college and careers, a capstone of the system that will accurately measure benchmarks of whether students are on track to reach that readiness achievement level by the time they finish school.

In light of that, PARCC has developed two policy statements: The College-Ready Determination in ELA/literacy and mathematics, as well as a draft Policy-Level and General Content-Level Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs).

### **FY '14 Budget Targets and Instructions**

Carolyn Dias, Chief of the Office of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, went over the process of the draft FY'13 Supplemental Budget, the revised budget for the current year, which must be cost neutral in accordance with the instructions. As part of the supplemental request, there are a couple of issues that RIDE needs to revisit: One is the ERate match, which RIDE thought was solved with the enacted budget, but it wasn't. RIDE has notified the House and Senate Finance Committee as well as the State Budget Office. The other, is part of the Governor's municipal package where there was a statute put in place to expand RIDE's responsibilities on oversight to the municipalities, especially those that are in fiscal distress, but the resources were not put in place for RIDE to do that.

The state is facing a FY '14 \$120-million deficit, which RIDE hopes will go down when it gets revisited at the November revenue estimating conferences.

Same as last year, the State Budget Office has asked for two budgets: One is the current - service level budget, which means that there should be no additional services added to that budget. The only things that could be a change from current service level, would be any of the targets that the budget office adds for across-the-board adjustments or for education aid.



The second budget is a 7% constrained budget, which means that RIDE would have to achieve \$1.3-million worth of savings as well as \$337,000 worth of savings from the School for the Deaf. RIDE will be looking at all options, not only on the expenditure side, which RIDE has pretty much exhausted through multiple reorganizations and changes of services, but also on the revenue sides and across all of the program lines to see if RIDE can hit that target.

### **Capital Budget Request**

The \$20-million technology bond has been included in the Capital Budget Request, which the BOR will be asked to vote on at its next meeting.

### **Academy for Career Exploration Charter School (ACE)**

Deputy Abbott shared a letter written by Commissioner Gist in which she reiterates her position of not recommending the renewal of ACE's charter at the end of the current school year.

Chairman Caruolo suggested, and the BOR agreed, that ACE work with RIDE to explore alternatives short of revoking the Charter in which they could have some serious thought processes/discussions and come up with a plan that makes sense and that the BOR would be comfortable with.

He then asked for a motion to have RIDE work with ACE to explore alternatives and come up with a plan.

On a motion duly made by Regent Bernal and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	RIDE work with ACE to explore alternatives and come up with a plan.
	Vote:	9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

Next, Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to change the September 20, 2012, BOR Work Session, to a voting meeting.

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Shimberg, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the September 20, 2012 BOR Work Session be changed to a voting meeting.
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Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Approval Items**

#### **a. Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves the proposed 2011-2013 collective bargaining agreement between the Central Falls Teachers' Union and the Central Falls School District, as presented.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

#### **b. Plan for continued RIDE operations during Commissioner medical absence**

Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion to slightly amend the presented motion to approve an interim plan during Commissioner Gist's medical absence. The Board agreed to the amended motion to designate Deputy Commissioner David Abbott as Acting Commissioner during Commissioner Gist's medical absence and until she returns.

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Adrain, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education voted to designate Deputy Commissioner Abbott as the Acting Commissioner during and until Commissioner Gist returns from her medical absence.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 member voted in the negative as follows:



YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,  
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**c. Approval of the BOR Appeals Committee Recommendation**

On a motion duly made by Regent Bernal and seconded by Regent Adrain, it was

**VOTED:** That in the Matter of Rui Rodrigues v. Providence School  
Department, it was voted that the decision of the  
Commissioner is Affirmed.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted  
in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,  
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Bernal, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary  
Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 9 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted  
in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, L. Adrain, C. Bernal, C. Callahan, R. Carothers,  
K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.